

Brisk Leytonstone hold Wycombe to a draw

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE W. 1 : LEYTONSTONE 1

WYCOMBE Wanderers encountered unexpectedly tough opposition from a brisk and purposeful Leytonstone side in an Isthmian League game at High Wycombe today and were held to a 1—1 draw after trailing 1—0 at half-time.

Wycombe Wanderers: Syrett; Beck, Moring, Truett, Fisher, Fryer; Worley, Trott, James, Bates, Free.

Leytonstone: Griffin; Allen, Wood, Smith, Flavell, Messer; Gray, Farmer, Tiffin, Rutter, Cudmore.

Referee: L. Needham (London).

There was an anxious moment for Wycombe early on when Fisher, attempting a pass back to the goalkeeper, gave inside right Farmer an opening but the Leytonstone man failed to connect properly and Syrett just got his hand to the ball.

A few seconds later, Cudmore, who looked a dangerous proposition on the visitors' left wing, shot just wide.

When Wycombe warmed to their work, Griffin came under hot fire but he looked competent enough with cool saves from James and Trott and a timely advance to clear an accurate centre by Worley.

Play swung quickly from end to end with little to choose between the teams and prompt tackling by the defences keeping marksmanship generally at long range. Cudmore was always a menace on the Leytonstone left wing.

BECK IN FORM

But Beck was in good form at right back. Shooting by both sides was inclined to be hurried and Trott especially missed a good chance for Wycombe when he ballooned the ball over the bar from a good position.

Leytonstone took the lead after 22 minutes after Syrett, harassed by Cudmore and Rutter, only partially cleared a long range drive by Smith.

Before the Wycombe defence could recover CUDMORE banged the ball into the top of the net.

A little later Smith saved another dangerous situation when he dived to save a hot shot by Farmer.

Wycombe tried desperately to get on terms but the visiting backs covered well and James for all his persistency was generally crowded out in the centre. Wycombe's best chance came when Trott broke through but Griffin fell at his feet to bring off a daring save.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0, Leytonstone 1.

Twice in the first five minutes of the second half Griffin foiled determined Wycombe attacks by punching out first from a Worley centre then from a hot shot by Bates. Leytonstone, however, maintained a cracking pace with left winger Cudmore the architect of many slick advances which had Syrett often in action.

Spurred to action by the shouts of the home crowd Wycombe started a series of strong attacks and even right back Johnny Beck joined the forwards in the goalmouth clamour and almost found the mark with a powerful drive which Griffin was a little lucky to block.

For ten minutes Wycombe kept the Leytonstone goal under constant siege without success. Then Leytonstone broke away again and Wycombe had an escape when Fryer passed back across the empty goal. Beck ran up to clear.

It was no more than they deserved when the Wanderers equalised 25 minutes after the interval. Truett centred high across the goalmouth and JAMES headed into the corner.

A little later Free was taken off with a leg injury, but Wycombe continued to attack with much more spirit and a few minutes later the winger returned to test Griffin with a clever lob from a Worley centre.

By now Wycombe were keeping play almost continuously in the Leytonstone half and only goalkeeper Griffin prevented them from claiming the winning goal on several occasions.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAN. 1
LEYTONSTONE 1

LOWLY STONES JOLT WYCOMBE

Wycombe 1, Leytonstone 1

LIVELY Leytonstone showed much better form to jolt Wycombe Wanderers Isthmian League championship hopes in a taut tussle at High Wycombe.

Trailing a goal down for much of the game Wycombe only snatched a point with a desperate rally midway through the second half when the hot pace of their early supremacy began to tell on the Essex side.

It was balding left-winger Ron Cudmore, 26-year-old veteran of the attack who robbed Wycombe of a point they can ill afford to drop in the championship stakes.

The wily Cudmore combined brilliantly with Rutter on the left flank and inspired many sweeping Leytonstone attacks which had the Wycombe defence in a tangle in the first half.

Long-range shot

It was Cudmore who banged in the goal after Syrett had punched out a long-range drive by right-half Smith which enabled Leytonstone to cross over a goal up. They well deserved this lead.

With James crowded out by the busy Flavell, and Bates lacking his usual fire, Wycombe were eclipsed in attack by the fast-moving Leytonstone halves and backs.

Only right-winger Worley, and left-half Fryer impressed in the home team. It was not until midway through the second half, spurred on by the taunts of frustrated home supporters, that the Wanderers finally recovered their form.

Then both the wing halves and even right-back Johnny Beck joined the forwards in a desperate attempt to break the Leytonstone defence. A centre by Truett enabled James to equalise with a smart header 25 minutes after the resumption and as Wycombe stepped up the pace in the closing stages it was brilliant Derek Griffin who stopped them snatching a winning goal.